

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of copy protecting a digital audio-visual ~~representing audiovisual information~~ signal, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) encoding the digital audio-visual signal to obtain an encoded signal;
 - (b) converting the encoded signal into a copy protected signal using a copy protection function, wherein the function utilizes a data signal representing copy protection data;
 - (c) scrambling the copy protected signal to obtain a scrambled signal; and
 - (d) transmitting the scrambled signal and said data signal to a receiver for subsequent recovery of said scrambled digital audio-visual signal.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting further comprises the step of transmitting the scrambled signal and said data signal as a single signal to the receiver.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the step of transmitting further comprises combining the scrambled signal and said data signal into said single signal.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving said signal in a receiver;
- (b) removing said copy protection data signal from the single signal, and storing the copy protection data represented by the copy protection data signal in a memory device;
- (c) recovering said scrambled signal from the single signal;
- (d) descrambling the recovered scrambled signal to regain said copy protected signal;
- (e) reconvert the regained copy protected signal back into said encoded signal using an inverse copy protection function, wherein the inverse function utilizes said stored copy protection signal; and
- (f) decoding the encoded signal to recover said audio-visual digital signal.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

- (a) descrambling the scrambled signal to recover said copy protected signal;
- (b) reconvert the recovered copy protected signal back into said encoded signal using an inverse copy protection function, wherein the inverse function utilizes the copy protection data from said data signal; and
- (c) decoding the converted encoded signal to recover said digital signal.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of recovering an audiovisual signal from a digital signal including a scrambled signal and a copy protection data signal representing copy protection data, comprising the steps of:

- (a) extracting said data signal from the digital signal;
- (b) storing the copy protection data from said data signal in a memory device;
- (c) extracting the scrambled signal from the digital signal;
- (d) descrambling the scrambled signal to recover a copy protected signal;
- (e) reconvert ing the copy protected signal into an encoded signal using an inverse copy protection function, wherein the inverse function utilizes said stored copy protection data; and
- (f) decoding the encoded signal to recover said ~~audio-visual~~ audiovisual signal.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for copy protecting a digital audio-visual representing ~~audiovisual information~~ signal, comprising:

- (a) an encoder to encode the digital audio-visual signal to obtain an encoded signal;
- (b) a converter to convert the encoded signal into a copy protected signal using a copy protection function, wherein the function utilizes a data signal representing copy protection data;
- (c) a scrambler for scrambling the copy protected signal into a scrambled signal; and
- (d) a transmitter for transmitting the scrambled signal and the data signal to a receiver for subsequent recovery of said ~~scrambled~~ digital audiovisual signal.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 8 further comprising a combiner for combining the scrambled signal and said data signal into said single signal, the transmitter transmits said single signal to the receiver.

11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the transmitter transmits the scrambled signal and said data signal as a single signal to the receiver.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 further comprising:

- (a) a receiver for receiving said single signal in a receiver;
- (b) a processor for: (1) removing said data signal from the single signal, and storing the copy protection data represented by the data signal in a memory device, and (2) recovering said scrambled signal from the single signal;
- (c) a descrambler for descrambling the recovered scrambled signal to regain said copy protected signal;
- (d) a reconverter for converting the regained copy protected signal back into said encoded signal using an inverse copy protection function, wherein the inverse function utilizes said stored copy protection data; and
- (e) a decoder for decoding the encoded signal to recover said digital audio-visual signal.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8 further comprising:

- (a) a descrambler for descrambling the scrambled signal to recover said copy protected signal;
- (b) a reconverter for converting the recovered copy protected signal back into said encoded signal using an inverse copy protection function, wherein the inverse function utilizes the copy protection data from said data signal; and
- (c) a decoder for decoding the converted encoded signal to recover said digital audio-visual signal.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for recovering an audiovisual signal from a digital signal including a scrambled signal and a copy protection data signal representing copy protection data, the system comprising:

- (a) a processor for: (1) removing said data signal from the digital signal, and storing the copy protection data represented by the data signal in a memory device, and (2) recovering said scrambled signal from the digital signal;
- (b) a descrambler for descrambling the recovered scrambled signal to recover a copy protected signal;
- (c) a reconverter for converting the regained copy protected signal back into said encoded signal using an inverse copy protection function, wherein the inverse function utilizes said stored copy protection data; and
- (d) a decoder for decoding the encoded signal to recover said audio-visual audiovisual signal.

15. (Withdrawn) A system for recovering an audiovisual signal from a digital signal including a scrambled signal and a copy protection data signal representing copy protection data, the system comprising a receiver and a descrambler module interconnected via a link, wherein:

(a) the descrambler module includes:

(1) a first communication interface for communicating with the receiver via the link, and
(2) a descrambler for descrambling an incoming scrambled signal from the receiver via the link; and

(b) the receiver includes:

(1) a second communication interface for communicating with the descrambler module via the link,
(2) a processor for: (i) removing said "data signal from the digital signal, and storing the copy protection data represented by the data signal in a memory device, (iii) extracting said scrambled signal from the digital signal, and providing the scrambled signal to the descrambler via the link; and

(3) a reconverter for converting an incoming copy protected signal from the descrambler back into said audiovisual signal using an inverse copy protection function, wherein the inverse function utilizes said stored copy protection data; and whereby the signals flowing from the descrambler module to the receiver via the link are protected against copying.

16. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 15, wherein the incoming audiovisual signal into the receiver is encoded and scrambled, and wherein the receiver further includes a decoder for decoding said reconverted signal.

17. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 15, wherein the descrambler module comprises a PCMCIA card.

18. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 15, wherein first and second communication interfaces comprise IS679 compatible interfaces.

19. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 15, wherein the link comprises one or more communication mediums configured for carrying audiovisual signals.

20. (Withdrawn) In a copy protection system including a receiver interconnected to a descrambler module via a link, a method of copy protecting signals flowing from the descrambler to the receiver via the link, comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving a digital signal in the receiver, the digital signal including a scrambled audiovisual signal;
- (b) generating a copy protection data signal representing copy protection data;
- (c) transmitting the digital signal from the receiver to the descrambler module via the link, and transmitting the data signal from the receiver to the descrambler module;

(d) descrambling the scrambled audiovisual signal in the descrambler module to obtain said audiovisual signal;

(e) converting the audiovisual signal in the descrambler module into a copy protected signal using a copy protection function, wherein the function utilizes said data signal;

(f) transmitting the copy protected signal from the descrambler to the receiver via the link; and

(g) reconverting the copy protected signal to the audiovisual signal in the receiver using an inverse copy protection function, wherein the inverse copy protection function utilizes said data signal.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of generating said data signal includes generating the copy protection data signal in the receiver.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of transmitting said data signal from the receiver to the descrambler module via the link.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said audiovisual signal in step (a) is encoded and scrambled.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of decoding the audiovisual signal in the receiver after the step of reconverting.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the descrambler module comprises a PCMCIA card.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the link comprises one or more communication mediums configured for carrying audiovisual signals.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the receiver and the descramble module utilize IS679 compatible interfaces for communication via the link.

28. (Withdrawn) A copy protection system comprising a receiver and a descrambler module interconnected via a link, wherein:

(a) the descrambler module includes: (1) a first communication interface for communicating with the receiver via the link, (2) a descrambler for descrambling an incoming scrambled audiovisual signal from the receiver via the link, and (3) a converter for converting the audiovisual signal into a copy protected signal using a copy protection function, wherein the converter receives a data signal from the receiver representing copy protection data such that the copy protection function utilizes the copy protection data from the receiver to generate the copy protected signal, and for providing the copy protected signal to the receiver via the link;

(b) the receiver includes: (1) a second communication interface for communicating with the descrambler module via the link, (2) a signal generator for generating a copy protection data signal representing copy protection data and providing said data signal to the descrambler via the link, (3) a reconverter for converting an

incoming copy protected signal from the descrambler back into said audiovisual signal using an inverse copy protection function, wherein the inverse function utilizes said copy protection data;

wherein in response to receiving a digital signal including a scrambled audiovisual signal, the receiver transmits the digital signal and said data signal representing the copy protection data to the descrambler module via the link, and

wherein in response to receiving the digital signal and the data signal representing the copy protection data from the receiver, the descrambler module descrambles and converts the audiovisual signal into said copy protected signal, and transmits the copy protected signal to the receiver via said link, whereby the signals flowing from the descrambler module to the receiver via the link are protected against copying.

29. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 28, wherein the incoming audiovisual signal into the receiver is encoded and scrambled, and wherein the receiver further includes a decoder for decoding said reconverted signal.

30. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 28, wherein the descrambler module comprises a PCMCIA card.

31. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 28, wherein the first and second communication interfaces comprise IS679 compatible interfaces.

32. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 28, wherein the link comprises one or more communication mediums configured for carrying audiovisual signals.

33. (Withdrawn) A method of copy protecting signals flowing from a descrambler module to a receiver via a link, comprising the steps of:

- (a) generating a copy protection data signal by utilizing a scheme which uses random number generation;
- (b) receiving a digital signal from the receiver via the link, said digital signal including a scrambled signal;
- (c) descrambling the scrambled signal to obtain a descrambled signal;
- (d) converting said descrambled signal into a copy protected signal using said copy protection data signal; and
- (e) transmitting the copy protected signal to the receiver via the link.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 33, wherein the step (a) of generating said copy protection data signal includes generating the copy protection data signal in the receiver.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 34, further comprising the step of transmitting said copy protection data signal from the receiver to the descrambler module via the link.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 33, wherein said digital signal in step (b) is encoded and scrambled.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein the descrambled module comprises a PCMIA card.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein the link comprises one or more communication mediums configured for carrying digital signals.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein the receiver and the descrambler module utilize 1S679 compatible interfaces for communication via the link.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, further comprising the steps of (f) reconverting the copy protected signal to the digital signal in the receiver using said copy protection data signal.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40, further comprising the step of (g) decoding the digital signal in the receiver after the step (f) of reconverting.

42. (Withdrawn) A method of recovering an audiovisual signal from a digital signal including a scrambled signal, comprising the steps of:

(a) extracting said scrambled signal from the digital signal;

- (b) transmitting said scrambled signal to a security module;
- (c) descrambling the scrambled signal in the security module to produce a copy protected signal;
- (d) transmitting the copy protected signal to a receiver which receives the digital signal;
- (e) reconvertig the copy protected signal in the receiver using an inverse copy protection function; and
- (f) decoding the reconverted signal.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 42, wherein said security module is replaceable.